



Season's Greetings

NEWS

no. 4

Fall - Winter 2005/06

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- New LGRP Publications
- Market for Local Government Services - Outsourcing
- Yellow Pages for Local Governments
- New Methods in Local Capital Investments
- Official Opening of Eleven e-Government Portals

PERSPECTIVES

- GONG's Local Government Roundtables
- Recommendations for Further Decentralization

PARTNERSHIPS

- U.S. - Croatian Cities' Twinning Exchange
- Electoral Assembly of the Union of Associations of Cities and Municipalities
- Asset Management in Local Governments

EDUCATION

- Sports, Tourism and Economic Development
- Appreciative Inquiry - Communication Methods for Improving Management in Organizations and Communities

LGRP PLANNER

- Fall - Winter 2005/06

INFO-POINT

- Croatia's First Youth Delegate at the 60th UN General Assembly in New York
- HUKON Launches their Website
- How to Communicate with Local Government
- Glas Istre Journalist Awarded Best Article on Local Democracy Issues

FOCUS

E-GOVERNMENT

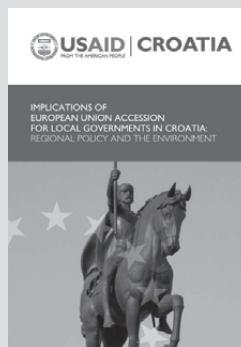


NEW LGRP PUBLICATIONS

USAID's Local Government Reform Project in collaboration with the Institute of Public Finance has issued two important studies:

Implications of European Union (EU) Accession for Local Governments in Croatia

This study has information on the requirements and implications of availability of EU structural and environmental funds before and after accession to the Union. The study describes the legal framework for these funds and which type of funds will impact on local government investment. The LGRP collaborates with the Union of Association of Cities and Association of Municipalities to distribute the study to local governments in printed format.



Compliance of the Croatian Legislative Framework with the Council of Europe's European Charter of Local Self-Government

This study presents the status of compliance of the Croatian legal framework for local self-government with provisions found in the European Charter of Local Self-government. As a member state of the Council of Europe, Croatia ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government on 19 September 1997. Local and regional self-government have a vital role in the functioning of a modern society. They reflect the crux of democratic principles - the right and duty of citizens to take part in decision-making that directly affects their everyday lives and to share responsibility for the functioning of common decisions in their community. The Charter is the first multilateral legal instrument that defines and safeguards the principles of local autonomy. This study addresses the question of whether or not the Croatian legal framework for local and regional self-government is in compliance with the provisions of the Charter. Both studies are also available in downloadable format on the LGRP web site:



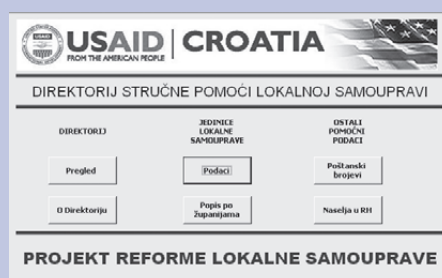
www.urban-institute.hr (under: Publications).■

DIRECTORY OF SERVICE PROVIDERS

"YELLOW PAGES" FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

LGRP developed a **Directory of Service Providers** for Local Governments in Croatia, or the so called **Yellow Pages for local governments** - a data base of service providers for local governments. The Directory includes companies such as *MojPosao* - for the services of advertising available job positions; *Ernst & Young* - for the services of auditing and tax counselling; *Sjever* - a development agency from Varaždin with the objective to attract

investors and create new jobs; associations of lawyers; business centers; business schools; IT companies; consulting companies; firms for graphic design; market research and public opinion surveys; as well as small sized trades and crafts.■



Directory of service providers for local governments in Croatia

REGIONAL CONFERENCES IN OPATIJA, KOPRIVNICA, OSIJEK, SPLIT AND ZAGREB

MARKET FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES - OUTSOURCING

The third regional conference on "Outsourcing Local Government Services", was held on November 29 in **Osijek**. The conference gathered local government mayors of the Brodsko-posavska, Požeško-slavonska, Osječko-baranjska and Vukovarsko-srijemska county for a discussion regarding the ways in which private enterprises, consultants or non-governmental organizations provide services to local governments. The discussion included benefits, opportunities and limitations presented by outsourcing of services by local governments. Jadranka Nikolov, City of Osijek Secretary, opened the conference.

This conference was the third out of **five LGRP regional conferences** planned to take place by the end of the year 2005 with the aim of enhancing the market for local government services, including firms, NGOs and consultancy services. The remaining two will be held in **Split** (on December 7) and **Zagreb** (on December 13).

First Outsourcing conference was held in **Opatija** on October 27, gathering city/municipality officials from the region of Istarska, Primorsko-goranska, Karlovačka and Ličko-senjska county. Participants expressed great interest in learning about best practices of outsourcing, specifically about services provided by private firms and NGOs in the area of social care (children diseases preven-



Cvjetana Plavša-Matić, director of the National Foundation for Civil Society Development giving a speech on the cooperation between local government and NGOs, Opatija, Oct. 2005



Mayor of Koprivnica Zvonimir Mršić at the opening of the 2nd regional conference in Koprivnica, November 2005



Discussion on advantages and obstacles of outsourcing in Koprivnica, November 2005

tion), information technology, communal (e.g. waste disposal, cemetery maintenance), culture and other areas. The second Outsourcing conference took place in **Koprivnica** on November 8 that gathered local government officials of Međimurska, Koprivničko-križevačka, Varaždinska and Virovitičko-po-dravska county.

The focus of the conferences was also on NGOs as service providers in communities. Among the presenters were the director of the Croatian National Foundation for Civil Society Development Cvjetana Plavša-Matić, Irena Slunjski from USAID-funded *CroNGO Program*, implemented by the Academy for Educational Development (AED), Igor Bajok from GONG office in Rijeka, Sonja Vuković from Forum of NGOs in Slavonia (*Forum udruga Slavonije*) and Ksenija Linić from the City of Rijeka.

Representatives from the NGO sector presented a newly developed NGO Charter, as a policy document that offers a framework for improving cooperation between local government and NGOs. The NGO Charter, first adopted in the City of Rijeka with LGRP assistance in November 2004, has been promoted to other local governments as a mechanism for utilizing NGOs as service providers to local governments and promoting transparent financing procedures to NGOs (including both registered NGOs and informal citizen initiatives). ■

CERTIFICATE COURSES IN ZAGREB AND ŠIBENIK

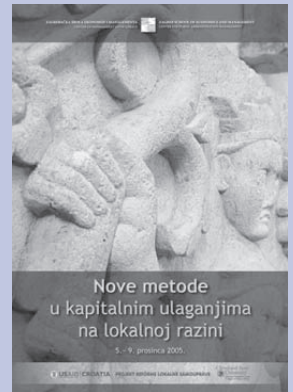
NEW METHODS IN LOCAL CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

USAID's Local Government Reform Project in collaboration with Cleveland State University, Center for Public Administration Management of Zagreb School of Economics and Management, and Šibenik College of Tourism Management, has initiated the project of educational programs for public administration management. The goal of these five-day courses is to transfer new know-how and skills in various areas in order to stimulate development of cities, municipalities and counties through training of public sector officials. The first program that presents the start-up of this project is the course "New Methods in Capital Investments at the Local Level" that took place in Zagreb, December 5-9 and Šibenik, December 8-13, 2005.

The course focuses on recently developed methods and techniques for effective finance management in local governance in USA, EU and Croatia. The aim of the course was to improve management in local capital investments, as well as to improve the criteria and competence in selecting consultancy services in the area of finance management most appropriate for local communities.

The seminar was intended for local government officials and professional staff working in finance departments.

Lecturers at the two seminars are: **Kevin O'Brien**, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs (CSU), **Marko Curavić**, Zagreb School of Economics and Management, **Hrvoje Bertović**, USAID's Local Government Reform Project, **Goran Kursan**, PBZ (Privredna banka Zagreb) Bank, **Marijana Jelić**, PBZ Bank and **Ivana Jelaš**, Raiffeisen-bank Austria Inc., **Petar Čovo** and **Frane Zvonimir Negro**, Šibenik College of Tourism Management. ■



Five-day certificate course at Zagreb School of Economics and Management, Dec. 5-9, 2005

11 MUNICIPALITIES OF BRODSKO-POSAVSKA, SISAČKO-MOSLAVAČKA AND BJELOVARSKO-BILOGORSKA COUNTY

OFFICIAL OPENING OF ELEVEN E-GOVERNMENT PORTALS



The cluster of eleven Municipalities from Brodsko-posavska, Sisačko-moslavačka and Bjelovarsko-bilogorska county: Okučani, Bebrina, Brodski Stupnik, Nova Kapela, Oriovac, Rešetari, Sibinj, Staro Petrovo Selo, Cernik, Lipovljani and Dežanovac will hold a joint opening of their e-governement systems in Zagreb at Lisinski Concert Hall on December 16, from 15 - 18h. The 11 e-Government systems were developed under the direct LGRP technical assistance. ■

Business portals of the municipalities of Oriovac and Cernik (Brodsko-posavska county)

ELECTRONIC LOCAL GOVERNMENT

E-GOVERNMENT



Business portal of the City of Vinkovci
<http://wa.vinkovci.hr>

E-Government is a new approach of upgrading communication within a local government and also between the citizens and the local government. It is supported by an Intranet and Internet software system that enhances the administrative efficiency and ensures more rapid execution of business processes, enhancing work performance. Furthermore, it allows provision of services to citizens by the Internet. e-Government model applies all modern means of communication and exchange of information such as e-mail, electronic conferences and electronic forums for enhanced exchange of information, using the LAN (Local Area Network) technology.

The most important feature of the LGRP-developed "e-Government" for local governments is the interactive communica-

tion of citizens with local governments and provision of improved services for citizens through the Internet. e-Government allows citizens to access the information on all local government projects and, in this manner, it monitors and adds a degree of control of budget spending and development plans for their communities. It permits them to communicate directly with elected city officials/city council members thus it allows them to participate actively in local decision-making. They can also use e-Government to submit a document for services they request from local governments, with a considerable timesaving.

Last year's signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the USAID and the City of Vinkovci was confirmed through the

launch of the City's "e-Government" Model or the "Business portal". Official presentation of the City's "Business portal" was held during the Vinkovci City Day or St. Ilija's Day, celebrated on 20 July and attended by the USAID Director William Jeffers, the Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Vladimir Šeks and the Ministers of Health and Education, Neven Ljubičić and Dragan Primorac. Mladen Karlič, Mayor of Vinkovci, officially opened the system to wider audience of citizens.

City of Vinkovci's "Business portal" has a high number of visitors per day and can be accessed by connecting to <http://wa.vinkovci.hr>. The portal consists of City News and Events, City Government Directory, "One Stop Shop" guidebook

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of local government through the “e-Government” model leads to transparent local governance. Thirty local governments are now actively using the “e-Government” model in Croatia with more demanding implementation. In LGRP partner local governments - the City of Vinkovci and the 11 cluster municipalities from Brodsko-posavska, Sisačko-moslavačka and Bjelovarsko-bilogorska county - LGRP technicians conducted extensive training and technical assistance of all levels of local government staff on the use of the Model. A “One-stop-shop” feature of the e-Government model is currently provided only to the City of Vinkovci.

Fact Sheet

The LGRP e-Government model is designed as a comprehensive Intranet - Internet system with three basic functions:

1) The first function refers to the overall **internal business execution (Intranet-based)**, which is performed within governments and comprises interfaces designed for every single administrative employee. This model provides a base for acceleration of the internal business execution and optimizes administrative workload.

2) The second function supports the **real-time Internet-based interactive service provision to the citizens “at a distance”**. Each work position possess an interactive communication channel which establishes direct communication with external users/citizens and assures exchange of documents, detailed description of activities, services and responsibilities, announcement receipt, references and answer to frequently asked questions, etc.

This second function of the system implies the possibility of the **“One-Stop-Shop”** or the business activity guide. Every local government who uses the system may utilize technical properties of the model in order to provide detailed guidance to external users of business activity completion. In



Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Vladimir Šeks at the Vinkovci City Council ceremonial session marking the opening of the Vinkovci business portal, July 2005

this respect, the government good will is essential for coordination of various offices as well as all the other involved business institutions, counties, or other entities that participate in the process.

3) **The third function is focused on development of citizen participation in local governance.** The system allows conferences and forums thus guiding citizens through any local government process for public service delivery and enhances budget control. It eventually leads to evaluation of operations within the scope of governments, triggering transparent government, promoting democracy and participation in decision-making.

The full use of the e-Government model will start when the electronic signature is implemented in Croatia. ■

(where the process of forming a business is documented and explained). On-line “chat” program is also structured within the system. The program allows direct communication of citizens with the mayor, members of the City board and City council and other City guests, on an announced topic and at an announced time. Citizens who do not have the Internet access in their homes, can access these “virtual” meetings from locations at neighborhood councils. Citizens can also participate in different city wide surveys and discuss community priorities.

The “e-Government” model was developed with the intention of enhancing local government efficiency, citizen participation in local affairs and community economic development. Opening up to the citizens

The implementation of e-Government model consists of several basic phases. The first step is to conduct a “visibility” study and a scan of the governmental subsystems, with the local network design, network reconstruction or construction, software model adjustment, server and client installment, and is eventually completed with training of the users. Technically, the software model is based on the Microsoft platform server and client application. The systems application languages are ASP and C++.

PROJECT OF PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS ON
LOCAL GOVERNMENT-RELATED TOPICS

GONG'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROUNDTABLES

Issues ranging from the new law proposal on direct elections of mayors to the implications of EU accession for local and regional governments in Croatia gathered various local and county government representatives, members of the parliament, representatives of ministries, international institutions and organizations, as well as the academia and the media.

The citizen advocacy group, GONG (Citizens Organized to Monitor Elections - Građani Organizirano Nadgledaju Glasanje), in collaboration with USAID's Local Government Reform Project, organize series of roundtables called Local Government Hours (LGH).

The first LGH focused on directly elected mayors and the draft law that has been submitted to the Parliament that calls for a directly elected County Prefects, Mayor of the City of Zagreb, and Mayors and Heads of Municipalities. This roundtable on the "Law on Direct Elections of County Prefects and Mayors of Cities and Municipalities" was held at the Media House in Zagreb on 26 September, immediately after parliamentary debate on this law.

Keynote speakers at this roundtable were **Antun Palarić**, State Secretary of the Central State Office for Administration, **Jessie Pilgrim**, LGRP Electoral Legislation Expert, **Ivan Grdešić**, LGRP consultant and Professor at the Faculty of Political Science, **Boško Picula**, Professor at the Faculty of Political Science, and **Vojko Obersnel**, President of the Association of Cities. Participants in the roundtable represented various local governments, counties, UNDP, OSCE, US Embassy, Union of Associations of Cities and Municipalities (Savez), political caucuses, members of the parliament, parliamentary committee for local and regional government and the media.

Through discussions, the participants suggested how to improve the new Law and clearly define specific provisions of the law including two-round election model (in case neither candidate wins the majority vote in the first round), the length of Mayor's term, the authentication of signatures in support of candidate's nomination, the election campaign financing, equal access to media, the establishment and duties of election commissions and polling station committees. A part of the discussion was dedicated to a

comparative analysis describing the system of direct elections of local and regional government officials in other European countries.

In **Osijek** and **Rijeka** GONG organized two Local Government Hours roundtables on 27 October and 3 November using the topic of the "Implications of European Union Accession for Local and Regional Governments in Croatia". The presenters at the roundtable were **Jasminka Pecotić**, MSc, from the Zagreb Graduate School of Economics and Business, associate of

coordination of structural instruments, as well as a chart of pre-accession and structural funds and practical advice for local and regional governments, including assistance in creating strategic plans and projects for receiving financial aid. Moreover, some changes in the supporting framework of EU funds were announced, such as Strategy of Regional Development, which is in the making, and the Draft Law on Regional Development, which is expected to be sent to parliamentary procedure by March 2006. As well, participants of the round table called for a



Roundtable on Direct Election of Mayors in Media Center in Zagreb, Sept. 2005

the Institute of Public Finances and co-author of the USAID's publication "Implications of European Union Accession for Local Governments in Croatia" and **William Kugler**, USAID's Local Government Reform Project team leader, who gave a presentation on what type of funds and level of resources that have and will be available to local governments upon accession.

Participants at the Local Government Hour included Parliamentary deputies, representatives of cities, municipalities and counties, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development, Central State Office for Administration, Regional Development Fund, as well as development agencies. NGOs and media also participated in the round table. The round table produced a constructive exchange of ideas, experiences and suggestions.

Participants were given presentations about regional policies of the European Union and

cooperation between the civil sector and local and regional government.

"Compliance of Croatian Legislation with the European Charter of Local Self-government" was the title of the Local Government Hour roundtable that took place on November 15 in the Croatian Parliament. This like other roundtables was organized by GONG with the support of USAID's Local Government Reform Project.

The roundtable consisted of presentations by **Antun Palarić**, State Secretary, Central State Office for Administration, **Zvonimir Mršić**, Chairman of Parliamentary Local and Regional Self-government Committee; **Marija Mušec**, Institute of Public Finance; and **Juliana Pigey**, USAID's Local Government Reform Project. Professor **Ivan Grdešić** facilitated the roundtable.

Participants of the roundtable were members of the Parliament, representatives of competent parliamentary committees, representatives of local and regional self-government, Ministries, as well as state and local institutions and organizations.

The participants agreed that Croatian legislation complies with most of the articles that Croatia

Implications of EU Accession for Local and Regional Governments in Croatia roundtable in Osijek, Oct. 2005





Compliance of the Croatian legislation with the COE's European Charter of local self-government, roundtable held in the Croatian Parliament, Nov. 2005

has ratified, but there are still issues to be addressed to fully comply with ratified articles, such as establishment of more efficient and just legal protection of local units, especially when it comes to suspending the enforcement of a general act of the representative body by the civil servant in the county state administration office. Also, participants found it very important for Croatia to ratify remaining articles of the Charter in order to institutionalize procedure of central government consultation with local governments in case of issues of relevance to local governments, such as legislation change to accommodate administrative and fiscal decentralization.

"Relation Between Mayors and County Prefects with Assemblies in the System of Direct Election" LGH roundtable took place in **Zadar** on Monday, December 5, 2005. The roundtable was organized as a discussion of the proposed Croatian legal framework regarding the direct election and the relation between the directly elected officials with the representative body through the examples of best practices.

The introductory presentations were made by **Ivica Poljičak**, President of the City Council of the City of Šibenik, who talked about the relation between mayors/county prefects and the assemblies, and by the international election expert **Jessie V. Pilgrim** who discussed the establishing of efficient collaboration with the Council and provided international examples of best practice.

The invitees to the roundtable included members of Parliament from the ninth electoral district, representatives of local and regional governments (county prefects and mayors) from Lika and Dalmatia, representatives of the Central State Office for Administration and representatives of international and domestic institutions. The roundtable stimulated discussion, exchange of experience and ideas that will be formulated as recommendations and sent to the legislator. ■

WORKSHOPS ON DECENTRALIZATION

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER DECENTRALIZATION



Workshop on decentralization at the Hotel Dubrovnik in Zagreb, welcoming larger municipalities with population above 5,000, Nov. 2005

During November and December, the **Union of Associations of Cities and Municipalities**, in partnership with the USAID's Local Government Reform Project, are conducting a series of six roundtables to discuss the future of decentralization. The third roundtable for mayors and staff members from municipalities with population above 5,000 took place in Hotel Dubrovnik in Zagreb on November 28.

In December 2004, the Government of the Republic of Croatia established the **Decentralization Commission** with the aim of decentralizing appropriate government functions as one of the criteria for public administration adjustment to the European standards. Members of the Commission are government representatives, representatives of the Croatian County Association and the Union of Associations of Cities and Municipalities.

Using an analysis of the existing local government functional tasks (sector-by-sector: Education, Social Welfare, Health, Transport, Roads and Economic Development, etc) as a basis of discussion, the roundtables work to develop practical recommendations regarding additional tasks that local governments of various sizes are capable of providing effectively and efficiently and should, therefore, be considered by the Decentralization Commission for **devolution to local governments, along with supporting financial resources.**

The output of these roundtables, to be compiled into a report, will provide the representatives of the Union of Associations of Cities and Municipalities within the Decentralization Commission and its Experts Groups **sound recommendations for further decentralization** that reflect the interests and priorities of the concerned local governments.

On November 9, the first roundtable was held at the Media House in Zagreb for representatives of the 32 larger Croatian cities that participated in the first phase of the decentralization process in 2001. The second roundtables took place on Nov. 21 for the cities with population above 8,000. The remaining three are scheduled for December 5 (for medium-sized municipalities), December 13 (for small size municipalities) and the final one for December 14 (for small cities) in Zagreb. ■



AMERICAN AND CROATIAN LOCAL LEADERS AND PROFESSIONALS IN PARTNERSHIP

U.S. - CROATIAN CITIES' TWINNING EXCHANGE

Pairing cities to exchange ideas on common issues related to local government performance is known as "twinning". USAID's LGRP currently organizes four such partnerships between Croatian and U.S. local governments: (1) Dubrovnik - City of Monterey, California; (2) the Istrian cities of Buzet, Labin and Pazin linked with cities of Pendleton and La Grande, along with Union County in Oregon; (3) Karlovac partnered with Kansas City, Kansas; and (4) Umag is matched with Port Townsend in Washington State. Through these partnerships, American and Croatian local leaders and professionals are linked in an effort to improve local governance and respond more effectively to local issues. During summer/autumn 2005, seven exchange visits between Croatian and U.S. cities took place:

Buzet, Labin, Pazin - Pendleton, La Grande, Union County



In July mayors and city managers from cities of La Grande and Pendleton from North-east Oregon, as well as the executive director of the NE Oregon Economic Development District, visited Istrian cities of Buzet, Labin and Pazin to continue the work with local city officials on a development strategic plan for each of the five cities (Buzet, Pabin, Pazin, La Grande and Pendleton) fostering sustainable economic growth and job creation. Istrian and NE Oregon cities began their cooperation in October 2004. This visit was the third of six planned visits till the end of the LGRP LGRP Twinning Program in summer 2006.

Buzet, Labin and Pazin plan to develop a shared approach and strategy to marketing the region's advantages and assets along with activities to build more pro-active inter-regional cooperation and collaboration amongst the three cities. Croatian cities provide information and advice to the cities of La Grande and Pendleton in areas of their special interest, such as the Croatian cities' strategies and programs for pre-school education/daycare and agro-tourism development.

Possible collaboration was also discussed between Pendleton's Blue Mountain Community College and the Polytechnics School

in Pula. Potential areas of collaboration include work with entrepreneurs to improve their business skills, as well as other areas to be defined by the two institutions of higher education.

At the beginning of November, the delegations from interior Istria - Pazin, Labin and Buzet, traveled to Oregon - to Pendleton, La Grande and Union County on the fourth reciprocal twinning exchange visit. USAID-awarded reporter Kristian Stepčić Reisman, a "Glas Istre" Labin correspondent (who participated in the USAID/UNDP workshop "Role of Media in Local Democracy" in Šibenik) a trip to accompany the group.

Karlovac - Kansas City



In September, city officials from Kansas City, Kansas, visited Karlovac to continue the work on a joint strategic plan for the development of the Karlovac Commercial Zone and the Korana Pool District. The partners reviewed and finalized Karlovac's economic profile brochure for potential investors compiled in June, during the last Kansas City visit to Karlovac. The model of public-private partnerships was also discussed, regarding the redevelopment of the formerly state-owned military barracks in the centre of Karlovac, into residential housing that would attract new residents from neighbouring jurisdictions. The city's strategy is also to involve

neighbourhood groups in the process of public information dissemination and decision-making. To enhance communication between Karlovac city administration and citizen groups, Karlovac intends to use Kansas City's Liveable Neighbourhood Program and raise awareness among Karlovac citizens on methods of providing input in the municipal decision-making process.

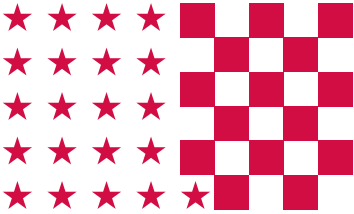
Karlovac and Kansas City officials began their cooperation in November 2004. This was the fourth of six planned visits till the end of the "twinning" program in June 2006.

In November, "twinning" between Karlovac and Kansas City continued, as the Karlovac city officials travelled to KCK on a fifth reciprocal exchange visit. One of the main points of the visit was the finalizing of a marketing brochure to advertise Karlovac as an attractive destination for developers looking to further economic development of this Croatian city. Materials for the brochure should be prepared in such a way that they target developers by type, i.e. retail, industry, services, etc.

Dubrovnik - Monterey



In September, Dubrovnik city officials visited California's City of Monterey as part of the Croatian delegation's first reciprocal twinning exchange visit to the U.S. Dubrovnik city officials worked with their



Monterey counterparts on joint issues related to refining the methods for extending the tourism season and creating the vibrant year-round opportunities for events focusing on business conferences, sports and cultural activities (i.e. corporate retreats, educational symposiums, golf tournaments, sporting events, music venues, etc. are some of the areas in which Monterey excels and could assist Dubrovnik further develop).

Also, public-private partnerships that may stimulate joint investments and allow greater local economic development were examined. Dubrovnik and Monterey city officials began their cooperation in March 2005.

In light of the 9/11 commemorative day, during which the visit occurred, deputy mayor **Antun Kisić** earned a loud applause as he pointed out that Dubrovnik as a republic was the first country to recognize the USA as an independent country.

The upcoming return visit of the Monterey team to Dubrovnik took place in **October**. By then, Dubrovnik has already begun working on a three-year Capital Investment Plan modeled after the know-how gained while exchanging with their counterparts from Monterey just a short month earlier

when the last exchange visit was in California. In Dubrovnik **Fred Meurer**, City Manager of Monterey, made a presentation on local government in the US for students of Dubrovnik University and together with Dubrovnik deputy mayor Antun Kisić, took part in a live call-in radio broadcast "Pogledi" (Views) at Croatian Radio-Radio Dubrovnik. During this visit the concrete relations were established between the University of Dubrovnik and California State University - the Monterey Institute of International Studies, while the *Next Generation Orchestra* from the Monterey Jazz Festival is confirmed to appear at the next Dubrovnik Summer Festival in 2006.

The next exchange is planned for Monterey in late **February** 2006 when the Dubrovnik team will, among other things, tour world class golf courses and meet with leading golf course designers to discuss issues concerning the creation of a golf course on Mount Srđ. This development is expected to have some 2000 five-star beds.

Umag - Port Townsend



Umag, **December 2005** – The Twinning Program between Port Townsend, WA, and Umag is back on track as the two teams picked up where they left off in Port

Townsend in January. Umag Mayor **Vlado Kraljević**, pledged his full support for the success of the twinning and welcomed the Port Townsend delegation to this northern most Istrian urban tourist center. Port Townsend City Manager **David Timmons** brought the flavor of his artsy eclectic community to the Umag City Hall through a presentation that outlined ongoing developments close to completion that were mere plans the last time the Croats were in the USA. Mayor Kraljević was particularly pleased to hear Port Townsend has already implemented some elements they saw during their initial October 2004 visit to Umag.

Urban Planning and Zoning Department Head **Vida Ferlin**, who was in the Umag delegation that visited Port Townsend presented a number of ongoing projects, pointing out the reuse of the returned military barracks in Umag are the key to this twinning, as Port Townsend has two former military facilities that were converted to community cultural, social and historic heritage facilities. The other member of the US delegation is **Keith Gurnee**, a planning expert and specialist for reuse urban embellishments, who consulted on the reuse development of the Point Hudson military facility into a maritime crafts hub in Port Townsend. Gurnee, who has many claims to fame including his work on the world famous Venice Beach in California, looks forward to giving his input to Umag officials concerning the reuse of their military barracks. The return trip to Port Townsend is tentatively planned for late February or early March 2006. ■

ELECTORAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES

The electoral Assembly of the Croatian Association of Cities and Association of Municipalities was held in Opatija, on October 18-19, 2005. Elections for the new presidency of the Cities' Association and Municipalities' Association, as well as the leadership of the Associations' Union (the Union includes members of both Associations) was on the agenda. Vojko Obersnel, Mayor of Rijeka and previous President of the Association of Cities, was unanimously re-elected President of the Association of Cities for the next four year term.

At the Assembly the participants discussed the current topics - the cooperation with USAID's LGRP on **Functional Decentralization** and the **Direct Elections of Mayors**. Furthermore, a range of workshops was held regarding the *Best Practice* in local governments. ■

ASSET MANAGEMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Technical assistance in asset management consists of implementing eleven activities, ranging from the creation of an inventory, legal issues, appraisal, monitoring financial results and organization adjustments. The expected benefits include increase of revenues and functional improvements in the use of assets.

LGRP provides technical assistance to 23 local governments in Croatia. Those include the following larger cities of **Split, Rijeka, Karlovac and Varaždin**. LGRP also provides technical assistance to municipalities clustered around Đulovac in Bjelovarsko-bilogorska county and Vojnić in Karlovačka county.

LGRP is preparing a *Legal Affairs in Asset Management* Manual as a part of its technical assistance, and will be available of print in January 2005. The Manual deals with obtaining, using and disposition of assets. ■

SEMINAR

SPORTS, TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ZAGREBAČKA ŠKOLA EKONOMIJE I MANAGEMENTA
ZAGREB SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT
CENTAR ZA MANAGEMENT JAVNE UPRAVE
CENTER FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MANAGEMENT

USAID's Local Government Reform Project, together with the Zagreb School of Economics and Management (ZSEM) - Center for Public Administration Management organized a series of certificate courses for local, county and central government officials.

A three day certificate course on "Sports, Tourism and Economic Development" took place at ZSEM in Zagreb from July 12 - 14. The seminar was designed to explain the special economic issues associated with sports, the role of sports and tourism in economic development and the appropriate techniques for measuring the economic value of sports and tourism.

The lecturers were renowned world experts in the field of economics and management of sports, tourism and local economic development, prof. **Mark S. Rosentraub**, dean of the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs (Cleveland State University), and **Vesna Tomašević**, senior economic development specialist, USAID's Local Government Reform Project. ■



SEMINAR IN ZAGREB AND ZADAR:

COMMUNICATION METHODS FOR IMPROVING MANAGEMENT – APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY FOR ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

SVEUČILIŠTE U ZADRU
Universitas Studiorum Jadertina

The seminar took place at the ZSEM in Zagreb on September 8, 2005. A new communication method in organizations and governance - Appreciative Inquiry (AI) was presented. AI originated in the business sector. The process was initially applied to corporations as an alternative to strategic planning, leading to increased profits, efficiency and employee satisfaction.

The United Nations (UN) and "Fortune 500" companies like Daimler Chrysler, BP, Novartis and Pfizer use Appreciative Inquiry (AI) methodology. AI has been successfully adapted for use with communities to enhance communication within communities.

A second, more expanded seminar on AI was organized in co-operation with the University of Zadar in Zadar from September 12 - 13. This two day certificate course focused on both Appreciative Inquiry and Citizen communication tools.

Lecturers at both events were conducted by dr. **Mark Chupp**, Assistant Professor and Program Manager at the Center for Neighborhood Development (CND), Cleveland State University, and **Momo Kuzmanović**, citizen participation specialist for USAID's Local Government Reform Project. ■



Dr. Mark Chupp, assistant professor at the Cleveland State University, explaining the Appreciative Inquiry at the University of Zadar (below, left)

LGRP PLANNER

fall - winter 2005/06

ACTIVITY

Cities' Twinning Exchange

NOVEMBER	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4: NE Oregon - Labin, Pazin, Buzet in NE Oregon (La Grande, Pendleton, Union County) (4th exchange)
	Nov. 7-11: Kansas City - Karlovac in KCK - (5th exchange)
DECEMBER	Dec. 5-9: Umag - Port Townsend, WA, in Umag (3rd exchange)
FEBRUARY	Feb. 27-March 3: Monterey - Dubrovnik in Monterey, CA (4th exchange)
	Port Townsend - Umag in Port Townsend, WA (4th exchange)
MARCH	Istria - NE Oregon (Pendleton, La Grande, Union County) in Labin, Pazin, Buzet (5th exchange)
	March 13-17: Kansas City - Karlovac in KCK (6th exchange)

GONG's Local Government Roundtables

NOVEMBER	Nov. 3: Rijeka - Implications of EU Accession for Local and Regional Governments in Croatia (also in Osijek, Oct. 27)
	Nov. 15: Zagreb (Croatian Parliament) - Compliance of the Croatian Legislative Framework with the European Charter of Local Self-Government
DECEMBER	Dec. 5: Zadar and Dec. 7: Zagreb - Relationship of Mayors / County Prefects and City / County Councils in the System of Direct Election
JANUARY 2006	Zadar - Implications of EU Accession for Local and Regional Governments in Croatia
	Koprivnica - Implications of EU Accession for Local and Regional Governments in Croatia

Opening of the e-Government Portals for eleven Municipalities of Brodsko-posavska, Sisačko-moslavačka and Bjelovarsko-bilogorska County

DECEMBER	Dec. 16 Zagreb Lisinski Concert Hall
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Regional Conferences on Outsourcing Local Government Services

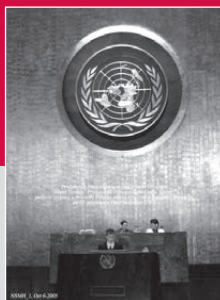
NOVEMBER	Nov. 8: Koprivnica and Nov. 29: Osijek (previously in Opatija, Oct. 27)
DECEMBER	Dec. 7: Split Hotel Art
	Dec. 13: Zagreb Hotel Westin

Savez's and LGRP's Roundtables on Recommendations for Further Decentralization

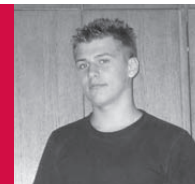
NOVEMBER	Nov. 9: Zagreb Media House (HND)
	Nov. 21: Hotel Dubrovnik
	Nov. 28: Zagreb Hotel Dubrovnik
DECEMBER	Dec. 5: Zagreb Klub književnika
	Dec. 13: Klub književnika
	Dec. 14: Hotel Westin

Local Public Administration Seminars & Courses

DECEMBER	Dec. 5-9: ZSEM (Zagreb) and Dec. 8-13: Šibenik College of Tourism Management New Methods in Local Capital Investments (certificate course)
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MATEJ PERETIN (14) FROM SLATINA Croatia's First Youth Delegate at the 60th UN General Assembly in New York



Matej Peretin (14) from Slatina, was the first Youth Delegate ever from the Republic of Croatia to speak at the Sixtieth United Nations General Assembly in New York held on October 3-7. As President of the Youth City Council for the City of Slatina, he accompanied the Croatian delegation to speak about the city's first Youth Council election. His speech was part of the United Nations General Assembly's discussion about the World Program of Action for Youth, ten years after its adoption in 1995.

Youth city council elections are one of the communication tools developed under the USAID's Local Government Reform Project, which enable young people to actively participate in the local decision-making and implement youth-related policies in local governments. Close to 800 youth, ranging from ages 12-16, were involved in organizing the youth city council election in the City of Slatina in March. Slatina's 19-member youth council advises the "adult" City Council on matters such as the use of public space, sports, cultural programs and social events. The president of the Youth Council of Slatina Matej Peretin is fourteen years old and is a student of the first year of "Petar Preradović" gymnasium in Virovitica.

To learn more about UN Youth Delegates 2005 and the first Croatian youth delegate at the 60th session of the UN General Assembly, please visit <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthdelegates05.htm>.

CROATIAN ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTANTS

HUKON Launches their Website



The goal of the Association is improvement of consulting services in local and regional

self-governments to introduce new management methods. Its founders are local government consultants, trained by the USAID's Local Government Reform Project. For more information on this non-profit, professional organization visit: www.hukon.hr

BROCHURE FOR CITIZENS OF GLINA ON HOW TO USE THE E-GOVERNMENT PORTAL

How to Communicate with Local Government

LGRP's e-Government model introduces a new approach to information management, communication within the local government, as well as between citizens and local government. Information Management (IM) consultant Dijana Turniški worked with the City of Glinja to issue a brochure on "How to Communicate with Local Government" that explained to citizens the use of the "e-Government" portal. The brochure, presented to the City Council in October, demonstrates, step-by-step, how to communicate with local authorities through the functions of the city administration's business/e-Government portal. City of Glinja and other local governments applying the "e-Government" model expressed their readiness and great interest for transparent and timely presentation of their projects, budgets, regulations and decisions.



KRISTIAN STEPČIĆ REISMAN, GLAS ISTRE LABIN CORRESPONDENT

Glas Istre Journalist Awarded Best Article on Local Democracy Issues



K. S. Reisman at work

On 28 June 2005, USAID, through the Local Government Reform Project, convened a group of media and local government professionals to select the best media report on local government affairs. UNDP was a participant at this workshop. The awardee was the Glas Istre reporter Kristian Stepčić Reisman. His work was published by Glas Istre on 28 April 2005 under the title "Pre-Election Twists and Turns in St. Nedelja - More Independent Lists Than Parties".

The contest was open to all participants of the April 2005 workshop on the "Role of

Media in Local Democracy". The purpose of the workshop was to discuss strategies to better inform citizens about local government authorities and the impact of local elections on the functioning of local governments. A total of 14 submissions were received from across the country. The topics ranged from local economic development, waste disposal issues, local business opportunities, the role of local governments and public education in the areas of special state concern and overlapping authorities between central, regional and local governments.